

ADDITIONAL REMARKS.

Read October 5, 1790.

WHEN the preceding observations were laid before the Linnean Society, I named the grass in question *Festuca anthoxantha*, in allusion, not only to its old generic name, but also to the yellow colour of its flowers.

At the same time I had a secret suspicion of its being the *Festuca spadicea* of Gouan's *Illustrationes Botanicae*, page 4, and Linnæus's *Systema Naturæ*, ed. 12, v. 2, p. 732. I was almost convinced that the description found in the place last quoted had been made from the very specimen above mentioned, now in the Linnean Herbarium. In order to settle this point, I sent one of my own specimens, without any remarks, to professor Gouan, and have just received for answer that it is certainly his *Festuca spadicea*. To this name that of *F. anthoxantha* must therefore give way, as the Linnean name has the right of priority, and is indeed very apt.

Since my former paper was written, I have also collected some synonyms of the above grass, from the Sherardian Herbarium, part of which I have looked over in company with professor John Sibthorp. They are the following.

Gramen paniculatum, alpinum, radice crassissimâ, foliis rigidis, striatis, et asperis, paniculâ fuscâ non aristatâ. *Michellii Hort. Pisan. 75.*

G. montanum paniculâ spadiceâ crassiore. Tournef. Inf. 524.

Nardus spuria Narbonensis. C. Baub. Pin. 13.

Nardus Gangitis spuria Norbonæ. Lob. Adversar. 43.

The last synonym is added on the authority of Micheli, as well as from the description and incomplete figure of Lobel. Micheli also confirms the synonym of Tournefort.

Hence we learn, that Linnæus has totally misapplied the above synonyms of Bauhin and Lobel, in quoting them as belonging to his *Nardus Gangitis*. That the latter is quite a different plant, appears from his own Herbarium; and Linnæus has committed a greater error in his quotation of Morison; for instead of section 8, t. 13, fig. ultima of that author, the figure he should have quoted is the last but one, the *figura ultima* being quite a different plant from all the above: and yet I am afraid the *differentia specifica* in *Species Plantarum* (*spicâ recurvâ*) was made from too great an attention to this misquoted figure*. At any rate, that character is very bad, as being equally applicable to the common *Nardus stricta*. What is still more unfortunate is, that the *N. Gangitis* is no *Nardus* at all, but appears to belong rather to *Rottbollia*, or at least to the same genus with *Rottbollia incurvata* (*Ægilops incurvata* Linn.), as probably does the *Nardus Thomæ* likewise.

The foregoing observations exhibit a series of errors and misconceptions, which can scarcely be paralleled in the botanical history of any other plant, and those the errors of the greatest men; owing to which, the *Anthoxanthum paniculatum* and *Nardus Gangitis* have been enveloped in more obscurity, and the labours of enqui-

* The figure of Morison is so confused, that this error could hardly be avoided. It is certain, however, that all his three spikes of flowers belong to the last figure.

